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The acknowledgement of applicant's claim for priority is appreciated. Applicant will submit a certified copy of the priority document after receipt of a Notice of Allowance and upon payment of the issue fee in this application.

The acknowledgement that the British Search Report has been placed in the file is appreciated. It is applicant's understanding that this Search Report was based upon claims submitted in the original UK patent application which covered the presently claimed invention but in British format.

Claims 1 through 7 stand rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite. Specifically, claims 1 and 4 are objected to because of the use of the phrase "of the type" in line 1 of each of these claims. This phrase has been deleted in both claims 1 and 4 and claim 1 has been modified to more specifically recite each of the elements of the claim. Therefore, claims 1 and 4 are believed to clearly overcome any remaining rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 (second paragraph) and any further rejection thereunder is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 5 through 7 stand rejected as depending from the rejected parent claims. Claim 2 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1 and thereby obviate any rejection of claims 2, 3 or 5 through 7 as depending from the rejected parent claim. Any further rejection of claims 3 and 5 through 7 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 stands rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson. The

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examiner suggests that Anderson teaches each and every structure set forth in independent claim 1 combined in the manner of claim 1. Anderson appears to disclose a sonar array in which multiple groups (referred to as subarrays) 29 through 36, 42 and 49 are enclosed in a single casing wherein each group contains a plurality of hydrophones. The signal from hydrophones in only one group are combined as a single claimed output, thus providing multiple channels output from each single casing.

This is contrasted from applicant's independent claim 1 which recites a plurality of modules where each module (or casing) comprises a flexible fluid filled hose where each hose includes a plurality of hydrophones which are located within the hose by diaphragms at each end. Applicant's specification discusses the benefits of having separate modules of fluid filled hose rather than a single casing. Therefore, it is submitted that Anderson fails to teach the structure claimed in independent claim 1 and therefore cannot support a rejection of claim 1 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Any further rejection of claim 1 thereunder is respectfully traversed.

Indicated allowability of claims 2 and 3 if rewritten to overcome the Section 112 rejection and including limitations from the base claim is appreciated. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form although the additional amendments which were made in claim 1 have been included.

Claims 4 through 7 have been amended to overcome the objection under 35 U.S.C. 112 and have previously been indicated

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as allowable. The indication of allowable subject matter being contained in claims 4 through 7 is also appreciated.

Applicant also includes newly written claim 8 which has support in the originally filed disclosure on page 4, lines 18 through 22. Claim 8 has been made dependent from claim 5 and as such is believed allowable as well. Consideration, entry and allowance of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that amended claims 1 through 7 and newly written claim 8 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: 

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Enclosure:

Copy of Formal Drawings

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